far been given telephone connections: and

(b) what is the number of village Panchayats in the country that are without these facilities and by when these will get these facilities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 4313 upto 31.3-1992.

(b) 1,60,545 as on 31-3-1992. This facility is proposed to be extended to these villages by 31st March, 1995, subject to availability of resources.

Payment of HRA at Special Rates at Pauri, U.P.

129. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basis for the special order issued in 1978 under which House Rent Allowance at Special rates at certain Hill Stations like Nainital, Mussourie, Pithoragarh and Tehri, was granted;

(b) whether the case of Pauri is under consideration to grant House Rent Allowance under similar special orders of 1978;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to implemented;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that Pauri (U.P.) like Nainital and Mussourie, has also been declared as tourist centre in October, 1991; and

(f) if so, the reasons for denial of HRA to the Central Government employees of Pauri at 'C' class rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The special orders of 1978 for grant of HRA to Central Government employees posted in certain Hill stations were issued on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee of National Council (JCM), comprising members from both Official Side and Staff Side.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) The Fourth Central Pay Commission have not made any recommendations for grant of HRA in any Hill Station which does not fulfil the population criteria. Pauri does not qualify for classification as a 'C' class city, since the population in its Municipal area is less than 50,000, as per the 1981 Census.

(e) The Central Government has no policy to declare any place as a Tourist Centre.

(f) A place being a tourist Centre is not a criteria for its classification for the purpose of HRA.

Bank Turnover and Number of Employees

130. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the turnover of the public sector banks and its percentage growth since 1989-90 to 1991-92; and

(b) the number of employees of different category/levels and their percentage growth during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Banks generally judge their business with reference to the level of working funds. The aggregate amounts of working funds of the public sector banks in so far as their domestic operations are concerned and the